This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A medical testing system comprising:

(a) an instrument for monitoring a characteristic of a patient; and

(b) an illuminating component for illuminating the instrument, the instrument including:

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(1) a component for selectively activating and deactivating the illuminating component; and

(2) a deactivating component for automatically deactivating the illuminating component, after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the instrument includes a work surface and the illuminating component illuminates the work surface.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the instrument further includes a keypad and the illuminating component illuminates the keypad.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the component for selectively activating and deactivating includes a toggle switch.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the instrument includes a keypad having a plurality of keys, each associated with an instruction.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the instrument includes a determining component for determining whether a key has been pressed by a user.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the deactivating component will automatically deactivate the illuminating component if a key has not been pressed by a user for the predetermined period of time.

8. (Original) A medical testing method comprising the steps of:

activating an illuminating component positioned relative to an instrument for monitoring a characteristic of a patient, the instrument including a keypad having a plurality of keys;

determining if a key on the plurality of keys has been pressed by a user; and

automatically deactivating the illuminating component if a key of the plurality of keys has not been pressed within a predetermined period of time.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of deactivating the illuminating component when a toggle key has been pressed.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the characteristic is the electrical activity of the heart of the patient.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the determining step includes the step of scanning the keypad for sensing if [[a]] the key has been pressed by [[a]] the user.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of starting a timer, after the activating step, for timing the predetermined period of time.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of stopping the timer when [[a]] the key of the plurality of keys has been pressed by [[a]] the user.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of resetting the timer after the timer has stopped.

15. (Original) A medical testing system comprising:

(a) an instrument for monitoring the electrical activity of a patient's heart;

(b) an illuminating component for illuminating the instrument, the instrument including:

(1) a component for selectively turning the illuminating component on and off; and

(2) a component for automatically turning the illuminating component off, after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the illuminating component includes at least one LED.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the instrument includes a work surface and wherein the illuminating component illuminates the work surface.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15, further includes a supporting component engaging the instrument for supporting the illuminating component above the instrument.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the instrument includes a keypad and wherein the illuminating component illuminates the keypad.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the instrument further includes a printing component for printing on a medium a graphical waveform representing the electrical activity of the heart.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the illuminating component illuminates the medium as it moves along the work surface.

22. (Original) A computer program for performing a method comprising the steps of:

activating an illuminating component positioned relative to an instrument for monitoring a characteristic of a patient, the instrument including a keypad having a plurality of keys;

determining if a key on the plurality of keys has been pressed by a user; and

automatically deactivating the illuminating component if a key of the plurality of keys has not been pressed within a predetermined period of time.

23. (Original) The computer program of claim 22, wherein the predetermined period of time is 60 minutes.

24. (Previously Presented) A medical testing system comprising:

(a) means for monitoring the electrical activity of a patient's heart;

(b) means for illuminating the means for monitoring the electrical activity of a patient's heart; the means for monitoring including:

(1) means for selectively turning the means for illuminating on and off;

(2) means for automatically turning the means for illuminating off, after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the means for selectively turning the means for illuminating on and off includes a switch.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the means for illuminating includes a light source.

27. (Previously Presented) A medical testing system comprising:

(a) an EKG instrument;

(b) a light source operatively associated with the EKG instrument for lighting the instrument; the EKG instrument including:

(1) a switch for turning the light source on and off;

(2) a keypad having a plurality of keys; and

(3) a component for automatically turning the light source off, if a key has not been pressed by a user within a predetermined period of time.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim [[28]] 27, wherein the component for automatically turning the light source off includes a component for sensing whether a key has been pressed by a user.

29. (New) A medical testing system comprising:

an exercise stress test device comprising,

an input for receiving data representing electrical activity of a patient's heart,

a work surface, and

a printing component configured to print a graphical waveform representing the electrical activity of the patient's heart on a medium moving across the work surface;

a light source that illuminates the exercise stress test device; and

a component for automatically turning the light source off, if a key of the exercise stress test device has not been pressed by a user within a predetermined period of time.

30. (New) The medical testing system of claim 29, wherein the light source illuminates a work surface of the exercise stress test device.

31. (New) The medical testing system of claim 30, wherein

the exercise stress test device further comprises a keypad having a backlight which backlights the keypad; and

a key on the keypad is configured to turn off both the light source and the backlight.

32. (New) A medical testing method comprising:

activating an illuminating component which is coupled to an exercise stress test instrument that is used to monitor electrical activity of a patient's heart as the patient

undergoes exercise stress, the illuminating component being directed towards a work surface of the exercise stress test instrument; and

deactivating the illuminating component with a control program if a predetermined condition arises indicating that conditions no longer require illumination of the work surface from the illuminating component.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the predetermined condition is that no keys of the instrument have been pressed for a predetermined amount of time.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the predetermined amount of time is about one hour.

35. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising printing a graphical waveform representing the electrical activity of the heart on a medium which moves across the work surface, wherein the illuminating component is adapted to illuminate the medium as it moves across the work surface.